

**Chairman Brett Guthrie**  
**Opening Statement—Subcommittee on Environment:**  
**“A Decade Later: Assessing the Legacy and Impact of the Frank R.**  
**Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act”**  
**January 22, 2025**  
*As prepared for delivery*

Good morning, Ranking Member Pallone, Ranking Member Tonko, my colleagues, and to our witnesses. This morning’s hearing will examine the implementation and impact of the “Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act.” This bipartisan legislation, which became law in 2016, provided for the only major amendments to the Toxic Substances Control Act—or TSCA—since the law was enacted in 1976.

TSCA is a unique statute. It provides the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with broad authority to regulate the entire chain of commerce if it finds that a chemical substance poses an “unreasonable risk.” But it wasn’t working. So, nearly a decade ago, this Committee worked together to pass the bipartisan Lautenberg Act.

Unfortunately, it’s still not working—at least not how Congress intended. We’ve now seen two presidential administrations—one Republican and one Democrat—implement the Lautenberg Act’s requirements, each of which have run into their respective issues with implementation. The EPA’s flawed decision-making process has consequently inhibited American innovation and our ability to compete in the global market. This morning’s hearing is also timely.

Today, the Committee expects to receive a report from the Government Accountability Office — requested last Congress by former Chair McMorris-Rogers and Senator Capito, now-Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee—that assesses the EPA’s new chemical review process.

In addition, section 26 of the Lautenberg Act—EPA’s authority to collect fees from chemical manufacturers and processors to defray certain costs of administering TSCA programs—will expire in June of 2026. With that in mind, both today’s discussion and the GAO’s report will provide this Committee, yet again, with the opportunity to develop a bipartisan solution to unleash American innovation.

I look forward to hearing from today’s witnesses and yield the balance of my time to the Vice Chair of the subcommittee, Mr. Crenshaw.